

# Battle Creek Current



October 2015

## City Manager's Corner



*City Manager Rebecca Fleury*

Did you ever wonder how economic development happens in Battle Creek?

It happens through a great deal of partnership and cooperation.

The city's biggest economic development partner is Battle Creek Unlimited. BCU has a new CEO, Marie Briganti and, together with their staff, they have nearly 80 years of experience they give to the city every day to support our businesses in Fort Custer, recruit new businesses, manage a foreign trade zone, support workforce development and assist in marketing the W.K. Kellogg Airport.

BCU used to oversee downtown development through the Downtown Partnership, but the city now leads these efforts with the help of John Hart of Co. Hart Solutions. Over the next

year John, city staff and downtown business owners will explore downtown development models and best practices to determine what the best fit will be for our city.

The city and BCU have been partners since the 1970s. Recently, the BCU board and City Commission reviewed and reaffirmed their contractual relationship. This effort helped each organization better understand each other and what is important. What we realized is that the most important thing is for all of us to support and grow business in Battle Creek. And that is what we intend to do—together!

Learn more about the city and BCU partnership on the December Keeping You Informed show on AccessVision with Vice Mayor Lynn Ward Gray. More details on viewing on page 2 under "Connect with us!"

## Leaf disposal options

Autumn is upon us!

If you live in the Battle Creek city limits, you absolutely **may not** burn leaves, grass clippings or trash, even with a burn permit. Each township has its own local laws on this. You **can** burn twigs and branches or brush, no larger than two inches in diameter.

You can mow your leaves, bag them or place them in a designated container for Waste Management pickup on your usual trash day (until Dec. 4), hire a private contractor to remove them, or haul them to Brice Pit, the city's compost site at 715 W. River Road, about a quarter-mile off of South Bedford Road.

If you mow your leaves, please do not mow into the street, or into storm drain inlets.

**See LEAVES on page 2...**

### City Calendar

For more, visit [www.battlecreekmi.gov](http://www.battlecreekmi.gov) and [www.battlecreekvisitors.org/events](http://www.battlecreekvisitors.org/events).

- **Historic District Commission**, 4 p.m., City Hall, 10 N. Division, Oct. 12, Nov. 9, Dec. 14
- **NPC 2**, 7 p.m., Neighborhoods Inc., 47 N. Washington, Oct. 12, Nov. 9
- **NPC 5**, 7 p.m., Christ United Methodist Church, 65 N. Bedford Road, Oct. 12, Nov. 9, Dec. 14
- **Zoning Board of Appeals**, 4 p.m., City Hall, Oct. 13, Nov. 10, Dec. 8
- **NPC 9**, 6:30 p.m., Southside Bible Church, 4515 Beckley Road, Oct. 13, Nov. 10
- **Bicycle Advisory Committee**, 3 p.m., City Hall Room 302A, Oct. 15, Nov. 19
- **City Commission** work session, 5:30 p.m., City Hall Room 302A, Oct. 20
- **City Commission**, 7 p.m., City Hall, Oct. 20  
Organizational meeting, 7:30 p.m., City Hall, Nov. 10
- **NPC 4**, 7 p.m., First Congregational Church, 145 Capital Ave. NE, Oct. 21, Nov. 18
- **Zoning Board/Historic District petition deadline**, Oct. 23, Nov. 13
- **Planning Commission petition deadline**, Oct. 23, Nov. 20
- **Civil Service Commission**, 4 p.m., City Hall, Oct. 26, Nov. 23, Dec. 28
- **NPC 10**, 7 p.m., Lakeview Senior Living, 14661 S. Helmer Road, Oct. 26, Nov. 23
- **Planning Commission**, 4 p.m., City Hall, Oct. 28, Nov. 18, Dec. 16
- **NPC 11**, 7 p.m., Riverside Elementary, 650 Riverside Drive, Oct. 28, Nov/Dec meeting to be determined
- **NPC 1**, 7 p.m., Community Action, 175 Main St., Nov. 5, Dec. 3
- **Veteran's Day**, Nov. 11—city offices CLOSED—bus/van services running
- **NPC 3**, 7 p.m., Michigan Tile & Carpet, 99 E. Columbia Ave., Nov. 12, Dec. 10
- **Thanksgiving holiday**, Nov. 26—city offices CLOSED—NO bus/van services
- **Thanksgiving holiday**, Nov. 27—city offices CLOSED—bus/van services running
- **Sustainable BC Committee**, 4 p.m., Dept. Public Works, 150 S. Kendall, Dec. 2
- **Yard waste pickup ends**, Dec. 4
- **Christmas holiday**, Dec. 24—city offices CLOSED—bus/van services running
- **Christmas holiday**, Dec. 25—city offices CLOSED—NO bus/van services
- **Fresh Christmas tree pickup** begins at the curb, Dec. 28



City Hall  
10 N. Division St., Battle Creek, MI  
49014

[www.battlecreekmi.gov](http://www.battlecreekmi.gov)

**City Manager**, (269) 966-3378  
Fax, (269) 966-6654

**City Clerk**, (269) 966-3348

**Code Compliance**, (269) 966-3387

**Fire Department** administration,  
195 E. Michigan Ave., (269) 966-3519

**Police Department**, 20 N. Division  
St., (269) 966-3322

**Non-emergency**, (269) 781-0911

**Department of Public Works**, 150  
S. Kendall St., (269) 966-3343

**Parks & Recreation**/Full Blast Fit-  
ness Center, 35 Hamblin Ave., (269)  
966-3431

**Transit**, 339 W. Michigan Ave., (269)  
966-3474

**Utility Billing**, (269) 966-3366

**W.K. Kellogg Airport**, 15551 S.  
Airport Road, (269) 966-3470

#### City Commission

Mayor Deb Owens, Ward 1  
(269) 420-4031

Vice Mayor Lynn Ward Gray, Ward 2  
(269) 830-2456

Susan Baldwin, at-large  
(269) 963-6901

Mark Behnke, at-large  
(269) 441-7663

Jeffrey Domenico, Ward 5  
(269) 339-1868

Andy Helmboldt, at-large  
(269) 660-9659

Dean Newsome, Ward 3  
(269) 924-6794

Michael Sherzer, Ward 4  
(269) 420-0384

Dave Walters, at-large  
(269) 209-0626

## Connect with us!



[City of Battle Creek, Michigan](http://CityofBattleCreekMichigan.com)



[@BattleCreekCity](https://twitter.com/BattleCreekCity)



[@cityofbattlecreekmi](https://www.instagram.com/cityofbattlecreekmi)



[PublicInput@battlecreekmi.gov](mailto:PublicInput@battlecreekmi.gov)

[CityClerk@battlecreekmi.gov](mailto:CityClerk@battlecreekmi.gov)

See our website for a full staff directory.



Learn more about city departments and ser-  
vices on Vice Mayor Lynn Ward Gray's Ac-  
cessVision TV show, *Keeping You Informed*. It  
appears on Channels 17 and 917 at 6 p.m.  
Wednesdays and online, [accessvision.tv](http://accessvision.tv).

October: Emergency Services

November: New city website

## LEAVES, cont'd

City residents may have a bonfire, but you must  
obtain a burn permit. This is available for \$25 from  
the City Clerk's Office, (269) 966-3348.

Permit requirements vary for portable fire pits. If  
the pit is three feet in diameter and burning materi-  
als do not exceed two feet in height, you don't  
need a permit, as long as you're burning for recrea-  
tional purposes and it's 25 feet away from any  
structure.

A portable pit that exceeds that size and/or a pit  
being used for open burning requires a permit.

These cannot exceed eight feet in diameter and  
three feet in height of materials, and must be at  
least 50 feet from any structure.

Hours of burning are sun-up until dusk, as indicat-  
ed on the permit.

Safety is key, and you may be asked to extinguish  
a fire at the Fire Department's request—even  
with a valid burn permit—if there are complaints.

The penalty fees for violating these burning rules  
are \$50, \$100 and \$200 for first, second and third  
offenses.

## City public engagement opportunities abound

Several city departments are in  
the midst of and preparing to  
ask resident input on a variety  
of issues.

First, our Community Develop-  
ment Division, which adminis-  
ters federal funding in our  
community to improve neigh-  
borhoods and housing options,  
is [participating in its annual  
engagement process](#) by visiting  
the Neighborhood Planning  
Councils with the latest pro-  
gram information.

Upcoming meetings are as  
follows:

-NPC 2—North Central  
7 p.m. Monday, Oct. 12  
Neighborhoods Inc., 47 N.  
Washington Ave.

-NPC 4—Fremont/McKinley  
7 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 21  
First Congregational Church,  
145 Capital Ave. NE

-NPC 11—Minges/Riverside  
7 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 28  
Riverside Elementary library,

650 Riverside Drive

-NPC 5—Urbandale  
7 p.m. Monday, Nov. 9  
Christ United Methodist Church,  
65 N. Bedford Road

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The [Planning Division is seeking  
input](#) on what the city's growth  
and development should look like  
in the next 10 to 20 years, as staff  
work to update the city's master  
plan, a road guide on those issues.

Along with a broad community  
meeting, staff also will engage the  
NPCs to discuss the master plan  
and gather comments and ideas:

-Community Conversation  
6:30 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 20  
Kool Family Community Center,  
200 W. Michigan Ave.

Refreshments will be served.

-NPC 11—Minges/Riverside  
7 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 4  
Riverside Elementary cafeteria

-NPC 1—Post Franklin  
7 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 5

Doris Hale CDC, 110 Green St.

-NPC 3—Central  
7 p.m. Thursday Nov. 5  
BC Dept. of Public Works, 150 S.  
Kendall St.

-NPC 2—North Central  
7 p.m., Monday, Nov. 9  
BC Dept. of Public Works

-NPC 5—Urbandale  
7 p.m. Monday, Nov. 9  
Christ United Methodist Church

-NPC 4—Fremont/McKinley  
7 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 10  
First Congregational Church

-NPC 9—Rural Southwest  
6:30 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 10  
South Side Bible Church, 4515  
Beckley Road

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Stay tuned for more opportunities  
regarding [Parks & Recreation  
projects](#), as well as police and fire  
facilities.

All are/will be outlined at our  
website, [www.battlecreekmi.gov](http://www.battlecreekmi.gov).

The Battle Creek Current is compiled and  
designed by Communications Specialist  
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